

The **THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN**

BULLETIN SIXTY
SUMMER, 1957

Thoreau And The Preservation Of Wildness

Remarks by Howard Zahniser,
executive secretary and editor of
The Living Wildness, made as
president of the Thoreau Society
at its annual meeting held in the
First Parish Church in Concord,
Massachusetts, July 13, 1957.

Second-century Thoreauvians,
who for the past dozen years have
been celebrating a series of cen-
tennials, can look upon 1957 as the
Hundredth Anniversary of a most
interesting and significant year in
the life and works of Thoreau.
Among the many provocative de-
lights, rhapsodies, poignant reflec-
tions, and observations on the men
and women, the seasons, the out-
doors, and the living creatures
with whom Thoreau shared his
year of 1857, and of whom he
wrote in his Journal, none has
carried deeper meaning through
this century and into our own
times than those that are con-
cerned with the preservation of
wildness.

As Thoreau entered 1857, in the
midst of his own fortieth year,
he was surveying the Lee farm,
and on the 4th of January he
wrote into his Journal:

"After spending four or five
days surveying and drawing a
plan incessantly. I especially feel
the necessity of putting myself in
communication with nature again,
to recover my tone, to withdraw
out of the wearying and unprofit-
able world of affairs. The things
I have been doing," he wrote,
"have but a fleeting and accident-
al importance, however much men
are immersed in them, and yield
very little valuable fruit. I would
fain have been wading through
the woods and fields and convers-
ing with the same snow. Having
waded in the very shallowest
streams of time, I would now
bathe my temples in eternity. I
wish again to participate in the
serenity of nature, to share the
happiness of the river and the
woods. I thus from time to time
break off my connection with
eternal truths and go with the
shallow stream of human affairs,
grinding at the mill of the Philis-
tines; but when my task is done,
with never-failing confidence I
devote myself to the infinite
again."

Walking over Goose Pond on
the last day in this year, Thoreau
thought the he saw "an old glove
on the ice or slosh, but, approach-
ing, found it to be a bullfrog."
Touching it, as he records in his
Journal for December 31, 1857, he
found it to be alive, though it could
only partially open its eyes. It
hung "motionless and flimsy like
a rag" in his hands. Thoreau
"looked round a good while and
finally found a hole to put it into,
(squeezing it through,)" thus in
compassion for a bullfrog closing
the year that he had begun in de-
votion to the infinite.

When this year of 1857 was a
week old and Thoreau was going
through the woods along the side
of the Well Meadow Field he re-
flected that, "There is nothing so
sensitive, so poetic, as a walk in
the woods and fields even now,
when I meet none abroad for
pleasure. Nothing so inspires me
and excites such serene and profit-
able thought." It was from this
January 7, 1857, entry that Brad-
ford Torrey, who edited the en-
tire Journal, chose quotations to
exemplify the attitudes of which
he wrote in his own essay entitled
"Thoreau's Demand on Nature."

"I wish to know something; I
wish to be made better," Thoreau
wrote on this day. "I wish to for-
get, a considerable part of every
day, all mean, narrow, trivial men
... and therefore I come out to
these solitudes, where the problem
of existence is simplified. I get
away a mile or two from the town
into the stillness and the solitude
of nature, with rocks, trees, weeds,
snow about me ... This stillness,
solitude, wildness of nature is a
kind of thoroughwort, or boneset,
to my intellect. This is what I go
out to seek: ... I am aware that
most of my neighbours would
think it a hardship to be compelled
to linger here one hour, especially
this bleak (January 7, 1857), and
yet I receive this sweet and in-
effable compensation for it. It is
the most agreeable thing I do."

Thoreau concluded that day that
he would not be ashamed to have
a shrub oak for his coat-of-arms.
A month and a day later, he de-
clared to his Journal: "I would
rather hear a single shrub oak
leaf at the end of a wintry glade
rustle of its own accord at my
approach than receive a ship-
load of stars and garters from the
strange kings and peoples of the
earth." It was my medicinal fate
on June 3, 1957, during a presi-
dential year's rereading of these
journals, to come upon this de-
claration during the early morn-
ing hours of a Commencement Day
when my Alma Mater had elected
to risk on me an honorary de-
gree. I read no more that day but
had fresh occasion to reflect on
the therapeutic, or prophylactic
or corrective values that there are
in these writings of Thoreau.

Thoreau's therapy or prophyl-
axis is directly derived from his
experiences in the wild.

In reviewing a group of Thoreau
books, about ten years ago, I

wondered "if the greatest endur-
ing significance of Thoreau may
not be in his apprehension of the
human values of wildness." I sug-
gested then that "this is probably
most concretely illustrated in the
'Chesuncook' narrative in The
Maine Woods, most affirmatively
stated in the essay on 'Walking.'"

When I first felt the challenge
of today's occasion I resolved to
pursue this probability, this won-
der, and I am still doing so. Having
re-read the Journal, The Maine
Woods, Walden, and "Walking,"
and having reviewed notations in
all the other works, I have been
rewarded with a sense of having
spent most profitably so much of
the past year's reading time. My
hypothesis has indeed survived its
scrutiny, and although my demon-
stration is not final that is only
because there are still some notes
to ponder more, some collateral
reading still to be done. The dis-
tracting charm of the aptness, for
this purpose, of Thoreau's Journal
for the year of our present cen-
tennial, has had something to do
with my procrastination of argu-
ment, I am sure.

"Sympathy with nature," wrote
Thoreau on November 18, 1857,
"is an evidence of perfect health,"
as we were about to note when this
digression began. A couple of days
later he recorded, "Here I have
been these forty years learning
the language of these fields that I
may the better express myself."
He derived much of his message
and its language from the wild.
"A great part of our troubles,"
he reflected on April 26 in this
year, "are literally domestic or
originate in the house and from
living indoors."

Thoreau's perceptions regarding
the values of wildness did not, of
course, begin in 1857. In the Sun-
day chapter of "A Week on the
Concord and Merrimack Rivers,
his first book, he confessed, "There
is in my nature, methinks, a singu-
lar yearning toward all wildness."
In the "Monday" chapter of the
Week he declared also that "the
wilderness is near, as well as dear,
to every man," and "our lives need
the relief of such a background,
where the pine flourishes and the
jay still screams." His comment
in Walden's closing pages is
among his best-known texts:

"Our village life would stagnate
if it were not for the unexplored
forests and meadows which sur-
round it. We need the tonic of
wildness,—to wade sometimes in
marshes where the bittern and the
meadow-hen lurk, and hear the
booming of the snipe; to smell the
whispering sedge where only some
wilder and more solitary fowl
builds her nest and the mink
crawls with its belly close to the
ground. At the same time that we
are earnest to explore and learn
all things, we require that all
things be mysterious and unex-
plorable, that land and sea be in-
finitely wild, unsurveyed and un-
fathomed by us because unfathom-
able. We can never have enough
of Nature. We must be refresh-

ed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and Titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder cloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander."

In 1846 Thoreau left his "Life in the Woods" at Walden for a two-weeks trip into the wilderness "Ktaadin." He wrote of his experiences there in an account that ran serially through five issues of *The Union Magazine* for 1848. Another wilderness trip to Maine that he made in 1853 he described under the title "Chesuncook" in the May, June and July issues of *The Atlantic Monthly* for 1858 — articles on which indeed he may have been working in our year of 1857. A final trip to "the wilds of Maine" he did make in 1857. Less than a month after his return from a ten-day mid-June trip to Cape Cod he started on his "third excursion to the Maine woods Monday, July 20, 1857." From this trip he returned on August 8. Its account is in the third chapter, "The Alleghash and East Branch", first published in the 1864 posthumous volume entitled *The Maine Woods* — so rich a volume in wilderness description, evaluations, and expostulations that no one who is interested in or cherishes the wilderness should venture to start quoting from it at this late hour in the forenoon.

What I have taken to be Thoreau's most affirmative statement of his sense of the value of wilderness was also first published posthumously — in *The Atlantic Monthly* for June 1862, poignantly soon after his death, on May 6, 1862, and later collected in the 1863 volume entitled *Excursions*. This was the essay on "Walking." This essay and "Wild Apples" Henry Seidel Canby said "have gone round the world" and next to Walden "have been probably the best read of Thoreau's works." Thoreau read it as a lecture in Worcester, Massachusetts, on February 13, 1857, and in advance correspondence regarding this occasion gave it a significant subtitle, calling it "Walking, or the Wild." It had been written half a dozen years earlier in sentences and paragraphs that spread excitement and delight at its apprehensions and its felicities of expression through *Journal* readings for 1850, '51 and '52. Thoreau was never able to construct the book that would best communicate his vision of what wilderness means to civilized man, but in this essay on "Walking, or the Wild" he did prepare what I believe might well be its synopsis and he did write its text: "In Wilderness is the preservation of the World."

"What I have been preparing to say," wrote Thoreau, "is, that in Wilderness is the preservation of the World." He confessed, "I do not know where to find in any

literature, ancient or modern, any account which contents me of that Nature with which even I am acquainted." Less than two months before death ended his last lingering weakening illness, in a letter that I take to be his last, he dictated "if I were to live, I should have much to report on Natural History generally." It would be an ineffable benefit, of course, to have this unheard report. It would also be unthinkable inspiring if we could go back a hundred years last February to Worcester, to hear the word that Thoreau did "speak for Nature, for absolute freedom and wildness," regarding man "as an inhabitant, or a part and parcel of Nature" — as indeed he is!

"Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps."

"From the forest and wilderness come the tonics and barks which brace mankind."

"Life consists with wildness."

When we think of Thoreau and the preservation of wildness, however, we think not only of the preservative qualities that wildness has for us, but also of the preservation by ourselves of wildness and of areas of the Earth that still are and may still remain wild and untrammelled. For Thoreau not only perceived that in wildness is the preservation of man but also that in man are the possibility and hope for preserving the wilds, what he once (August 30, 1856) called "little oases of wildness in the desert of our civilization."

Noting on April 11 in our year of 1857 how fishes are driven out by man's so-called improvements a word that Thoreau himself italicized — he recorded, "I can hardly imagine a greater change than this produced by the influence of man in nature." When he climbed the Chesterfield Mountain in September 9, 1856, he declared, "This town will be convicted of folly if they ever permit this mountain to be laid bare."

In his *Journal* for October 15, 1859, Thoreau recommended a primitive forest for every town.

"Each town," he wrote, "should have a park, or rather a primitive forest, of five hundred or a thousand acres, where a stick should never be cut for fuel, a common possession forever, for instruction and recreation. We hear of cow-commons and ministerial lots, but we want men-commons and lay lots, inalienable forever. Let us keep the New World new, preserve all the advantages of living in the country. There is meadow and pasture and wood-lot for the town's poor. Why not a forest and huckleberry-field for the town's rich? All Walden Wood might have been preserved for our park forever, with Walden in its midst, and the Easterbrooks Country, an unoccupied area of some four square miles, might have been our huckleberry-field. If any owners

of these tracts are about to leave the world without natural heirs who need or deserve to be specifically remembered, they will do wisely to abandon their possession to all, and not will them to some individual who perhaps has enough already. As some give to Harvard College or another institution, why might not another give a forest or a huckleberry-field to Concord? A town is an institution which deserves to be remembered. We boast of our system of education, but why stop at schoolmasters and schoolhouses? We are all schoolmasters, and our schoolhouse is the universe. To attend chiefly to the desk or schoolhouse while we neglect the scenery in which it is placed is absurd. If we do not look out we shall find our fine schoolhouse standing in a cow-yard at last."

This paragraph in Thoreau's *Journal*, with its imaginative proposal for a township primitive area and its suggestive appeal for public-spirited bequests, so far as I know, remained unpublished until 1906. So likewise I presume did a suggestion made to his *Journal* on January 3, 1861, for a committee "to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment." He advocated that "precious natural objects of rare beauty should belong to the public." On this day asking himself, "What are the natural features which make a township handsome" he answered, and commented:

"A river, with its water falls and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent. If the inhabitants of a town were wise, they would seek to preserve these things, though at a considerable expense; for such things educate far more than any hired teachers or preachers, or any at present recognized system of school education."

Henry Seidel Canby included this latter plea in his one-volume selection of *The Works of Thoreau* published in 1937. Edwin Way Teale quoted the October 15, 1859, *Journal* comment in the introduction to the "Higher Laws" chapter of the Walden edition that Mr. Teale edited in 1946. What their influence has been one can only speculate, but they do indeed reveal Thoreau.

As to the preservation of the larger tracts of parks and wilderness — the areas that have become characteristic American Institutions — we can ascribe with confidence a considerable influence to Thoreau. This is in part due to the inspiration of Thoreau's comments in Walden, "Walking," *The Maine Woods*, and elsewhere for the minds of men and women who through the past century have worked for conservation, including the preservation of areas of wilderness. Our confidence in ascribing

this influence, like the influence itself, also is due to the fact that in *The Maine Woods* Thoreau did speak out for the establishment of preserves, he was published, and he was read. He still is, and he still speaks.

Advocating in the Congress of the United States a bill to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System, the Honorable John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania last year declared:

"So far as I know the first one to write a plea for wilderness preservation was Henry David Thoreau."

Representative Saylor then spoke in details that may well conclude these present remarks. He said:

"Thoreau, whose world-classic volume called Walden had its setting in the wild lands around Concord, Massachusetts, urges in that volume:

"We need the tonic of wildness."

"That book was published more than a century ago, in 1854. Four years later, in 1858, Thoreau wrote

in the *Atlantic Monthly* about a trip he had made to the wilderness of northern Maine in 1853, and he ended this article with an earnest plea for preservation. In 1864 this article 'Chesuncook,' was included in Thoreau's posthumous volume entitled *The Maine Woods*.

"The kings of England formerly had their forests 'to hold the king's game', Thoreau remarked. 'I think they were impelled by a true instinct,' he commented. And then he asked:

"Why should not we, who have renounced the king's authority, have our national preserves, . . . in which the bear and panther, and some even of the hunter race, may still exist, and not be 'civilized off the face of the earth,'—our forests, not to hold the king's game merely, but to hold and preserve the king himself also, the lord of creation, — not for idle sport or food, but for inspiration and our own true recreation?"

These remarks by Congressman John P. Saylor in our national House of Representatives, advocating wilderness preservation legislation that has since been advancing steadily and in spite of some opposition, I take to be something of a measure of the influence of Henry David Thoreau for the preservation of wildness. And although quite by coincidence, unnoticed till some time afterward, there was surely a peculiar appropriateness in the fact that this significant address by Representative Saylor entitled "Saving America's Wilderness" was presented on July 12, 1956, the hundredth anniversary of the day when Thoreau entered his fortieth year, the conclusion of which we have observed in this our own centennial.

Reprinted from the
CONCORD JOURNAL

The executive committee of the Thoreau Society met Friday, July 12. It passed the following resolution: The officers and members of the executive committee of the Thoreau Society convening for the Society's 1957 annual meeting have visited Walden Pond and have noted with deep concern the drastic changes recently made in the woodland shores of the Pond, and have also recalled that in giving the land around Walden to the Commonwealth in 1922 the members of the Forbes and Emerson families stated in their deeds that it was "the sole and exclusive purpose of the conveyance to aid the Commonwealth in preserving the Walden of Emerson and Thoreau, its shores and woodlands, for the public who wish to enjoy the pond, the woods, and nature."

Realizing that this purpose requires the most careful cherishing of the natural features of the area and the most deliberate and well considered planning and administration of the area's services for the public, the officers and executive committee members of the Society have voted to urge such policies upon the public officials charged with the custody of Walden Pond and express an eagerness to cooperate in every way possible with these officials for the preservation and best use of Walden, its shores, and woodlands.

The executive committee also proposed the following two amendments to the society's by-laws to be voted on at the 1958 annual meeting:

1. The officers of this society shall be ex-officio life members of the board of directors, above and beyond the stipulated six members of the board.

2. Sustaining members of the society shall consist of those members who contribute more than one dollar but less than twenty-five dollars to the treasury of the society. They will thus be entitled to a membership of one fiscal year in the society.

[Amendment 1 will enable the society to take advantage of the services of its retired officers without "loading" the membership of its regular board of directors. Amendment 2 will offer an incentive to those members who wish to further the activities of the society by their financial aid. They will be recognized by appropriate mention in the bulletin.

The annual meeting of the Thoreau Society was held in the First Parish Church in Concord on Saturday, July 13, 1957. The secretary's report of the 1956 meeting was accepted as published in Bulletin 56. The following report of the treasurer was accepted:

On hand, July 10, 1956	\$676.00
Income	624.00
Expenses:	
Travel	75.00
Meeting	30.00
Stationary	70.12
Bank charges	4.16
Printing	306.50
Postage	221.04
Misc.	10.00
Total expenditures	716.82
On hand, July 5, 1957	583.18

Mr. Richard Reynolds moved that the society endorse the statement adopted by the officers and executive committee of the society on July 12 and empower and direct the officers of the society, especially

those in Concord, to pursue this matter as vigorously as possible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stephen Sherwin and passed by the members.

The president appointed the following committee to carry out this resolution: Mrs. Herbert Hosmer chairman, Mr. Randolph Jackson, Mr. John Nickols, Mr. Truman Nelson, Mr. Roland Robbins, Rev. Arthur Schoenfeldt, and Mrs. Caleb Wheeler. The chairman was empowered to appoint such additional members as seen fit [and she has since added the name of Miss Dorthea Harrison].

Mr. Paul Oehser moved that the society commend the stand of Congressman John P. Saylor on conservation. [See Mr. Zahniser's address.] This motion was adopted.

Mr. Truman Nelson moved that a memorial be sent to the Massachusetts Legislature, calling their attention to the words of the deed for the Walden State Reservation and to the violations thereof. This resolution was adopted and the "Save Walden" committee was instructed to carry it out.

Mr. T. L. Bailey, chairman of the nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers: for one year: president, Mr. Edwin Way Teale, Baldwin, N.Y.; vice-president, Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding, Geneseo, N.Y.; for three years, members of the board of directors, Mr. Roland Robbins, Concord, Mass.; Mr. Ira Hoover, Arden, Del. This slate of officers was duly elected.

The president announced his appointment of the following nominating committee for 1958: Mr. Ralph Chapman, Brattleboro, Vt. and Mrs. Esther Anderson, Concord, Mass.

Mr. Zahniser delivered the presidential address on "Thoreau and the Preservation of Wilderness" which is printed in this bulletin.

The Honorable G. L. Meta, Ambassador to the United States from India, delivered a paper on "The Influence of Thoreau on Gandhi" [Copies of this address will be distributed to the members at a later date].

Mr. Roland Robbins, on behalf of the society, presented to the ambassador an original brick dug up at the site of Thoreau's Walden cabin, and expressed the hope that it might be deposited in some appropriate museum or library in India.

A luncheon was served in the vestry of the First Parish Church. This was followed by an excursion to the new replica of Concord Bridge and a visit to the gardens on the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Stedman Buttrick.

Saturday evening, at the Concord Free Public Library, Mrs. Esther Anderson showed her latest collection of colored photographs --based on Thoreau's "A Walk to Wachusett."

SAVE WALDEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Just before the annual meeting, spurred by the despoilment of Walden woodland by bulldozer and chain saws, Concord Thoreau Society members went into action. After a conference with the Board of Selectmen, a pondside meeting took place with representatives of that body, the County Commissioners, two State Representatives, and others present.

A deluge of publicity followed, stimulated by the action of the Annual Meeting in appointing a Save Walden Committee. News stories, feature articles, editorials, etc., appeared in newspapers across the country. CBS radio and NBC-TV broadcast the story, and NEWSWEEK, TIME, and the SATURDAY RE-

VIEW took note. Letters, telegrams, and long-distance telephone calls poured in upon the Committee from "all sorts and conditions of men"--and women.

To date, two conferences have been held in the office of the County Commissioners, who now have signified their willingness to consult with experts before ordering repairs or further changes at Walden. A preliminary joint report has been transmitted by the Save Walden Committee's consultants, Profs. Walter P. Gropius, Norman T. Newton, and Alvin G. Whitney. A more detailed report will be submitted in the near future. The County Commissioners are consulting with the staff of the Massachusetts State University.

Backed by legal counsel, the Save Walden Committee takes the firm stand that under the donors' deeds, the Walden land was given "to preserve the Walden of Emerson and Thoreau, its shores and woodland," and that the permissive use for "bathing, fishing, and boating" should be subordinated to the primary purpose of the gift.

--Gladys E. H. Hosmer, Chairman.

"SAVE WALDEN" PUBLICITY

So widespread has been the publicity to save Walden Pond from destruction that it is impossible to list each article separately. However articles, editorials, and illustrations in the following have been called to our attention: BOSTON GLOBE, July, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, Aug. 2, 3, 7; BOSTON HERALD, June 30, July 24, Aug. 7; BOSTON TRAVELER, July 11; CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, July 18; CONCORD ENTERPRISE, July 4, 11; CONCORD JOURNAL, June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25; HARRISBURG [Pa.] HOME STAR, July 10; LOWELL SUN, June 30; NEWSWEEK, July 29, Aug. 12; NEW YORK TIMES, July 21, 24, 28, 29, Aug. 3; PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, July 21; RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH, July 24; TIME, July 29; and WORCESTER GAZETTE. We would much appreciate learning of any other articles on the subject.

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

Mr. John S. Van E. Kohn, 3 West 46th St, New York City, is anxious to learn the present location of H. G. O. Blake's copy of the first edition of Thoreau's WEEK. It was sold at the Wakeman Sale in 1924, but he can find no record of it since. Can anyone help him?

A map of this country, about 18" x 24", copied by Thoreau from an early map made by Champlain has recently been found among the papers of the late John E. Godfrey of Bangor, Me. It is described as "finely executed, with fish, animals, birds, etc. surrounding it. With it are notes and papers. It was presented to a Bangor man when Thoreau visited in his home.

The "missing" journal of Thoreau that was acquired by Morgan Library last fall is being edited by Perry Miller of Harvard and will be published by Houghton Mifflin in the near future.

Comet Press is publishing in the fall a volume edited by Mrs. Helen B. Morrison entitled THOREAU TODAY: SELECTIONS FROM HIS WRITINGS.

Mr. Christopher McKee of Houston, Texas, has presented to the society for its archives, an unpublished detailed discussion and diagnosis of the last illness of Sophia Thoreau.

The Morgan Library has recently acquired the originals of the two Thoreau manuscripts reproduced in facsimile in Sanborn's THE PERSONALITY OF THOREAU (Boston, 1901).

Sterling North has recently completed a new biography of Thoreau which Houghton Mifflin is to publish.

Among other papers found in the estate of the late Prof. Richard Manning of Kenyon College was an unpublished letter from Thoreau to Hawthorne.

The May, 1957, issue of GOODHOUSEKEEPING includes a booklet of President Eisenhower's Favorite Poetry, Prose and Prayers, and it includes two selections from Thoreau.

The cost of printing this bulletin was covered by the life membership of Mrs. Allison Wesley of Moylan, Pa.

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY--WH

Hoover, Ira. THE CENTENNIAL OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Arden, Del.: Roberts Studio Press, [1957]. Reprinted from the NEW YORK CALL for July 8, 1917. Mr. Hoover will send copies of this to any of our members on receipt of return postage. Address: 2212 Little Lane, Arden, Wilmington, Del.

Kazin, Alfred. "Dry Light and Hard Expressions." ATLANTIC MONTHLY, CC (July 1957), 74-76. Comparison of Emerson and Thoreau.

Loomis, C. Grant. "Henry David Thoreau as Folklorist." WESTERN FOLKLORE, XVI (April, 1957), 90-106. Points out in detail that Thoreau's works are a gold mine of folklore, proverbs, folktales, superstitions, etc.

Pyarelal. "Thoreau, Tolstoy and Gandhiji" NEW OUTLOOK, X (May, 1957), 3-11. A good account of Gandhi's interest in Thoreau, written by his personal secretary. The editors will send a free copy of this issue to any of our members who will write them at 2865 West 9th St., Los Angeles 6, Calif.

Thoreau, Henry David. "David Henry Thoreau." Hartford: Emerson Society, 1957. 2pp. Facsimile of Thoreau's entry in his Harvard classbook.

----- "Resistance to Civil Government." in AESTHETIC PAPERS. Gainesville, Fla.: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1957. \$7.50. The first publication of Thoreau's essay on "Civil Disobedience" was so limited that it is the rare person who can locate a copy for his library. Now SF&R have reprinted it in facsimile, with an introduction by Joseph Jones, to make it more readily available.

Wright, Nathalia. "Emily Dickinson's Boanerges and Thoreau's Atropos: Locomotives on the Same Line." MODERN LANG. NOTES, LXXII (February, 1957), 101-103. WALDEN as a source for one of her poems. Zahniser, Howard. "Thoreau and the Preservation of Wildness." CONCORD JOURNAL July 18, 1957. Presidential address. Zwanzig, Karl Joachim. THOREAU ALS KRITIKER DER GESELLSCHAFT. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. Freie Universitat, Berlin, 1956.

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Its bulletins are issued quarterly; its booklets, occasionally. Annual meetings are held in Concord each July. Officers of the society are Edwin Way Teale, Baldwin, L.I., president; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is one dollar; life membership, \$25. Communications concerning membership or publications should be addressed to the secretary:

Walter Harding
State University Teachers College
Geneseo, New York